

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SCI-06 EB-12 COME-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 EPA-04 CEQ-02 RSC-01 /065 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, PLOS, IN

SUBJECT: TRANS HURON TANKER - PRESS GUIDANCE

Q. AS YOU KNOW, THE TRANS HURON RAN AGROUND ON A REEF
OFF KILTAN ISLAND. WHO OWNS THIS VESSEL?

A. THE TRANS HURON IS A USG OWNED VESSEL CHARTERED TO
SEATRAN, A PRIVATE AMERICAN CORPORATION. IT IS ACTUALLY
OPERATED, WE UNDERSTAND, BY A SUBSIDIARY OF THIS FIRM.

Q. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GOING TO DO ABOUT
THE OIL THAT HAS SPILLED OUT OF THE SHIP AND IS LIKELY TO
POLLUTE THE INDIAN COAST?

A. UNDER MARITIME LAW, THE OPERATORS OF A VESSEL HAVE FULL
LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES RESULTING FROM
POLLUTION. WE UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IS IN
CONTACT WITH THE COMPANY. NATURALLY IT WOULD BE REGRET-
ABLE IF FURTHER DAMAGE RESULTS FROM THIS ACCIDENT AND WE
ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS WILL NOT OCCUR. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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